

**Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Regular Called Meeting**  
**March 15, 2005**

**Item 1. Call To Order**

On Tuesday, March 15, 2005, the Round Rock Historic Preservation Commission met in a regular called meeting in the Planning Conference Room located at 301 W. Bagdad, Suite 210. With a quorum present, Vice-Chairman Gary Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Bob Brinkman and David Conrad (alternate). Also attending the meeting were Joelle Labrosse, Senior Planner and Armida C. McClure, Planning Technician.

**Item 2. Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2005**

Following roll call, the minutes for the February 15, 2005 meeting were reviewed.

**Motion:** Commission Brinkman moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2005 meeting as presented. Commissioner Conrad seconded the motion.

<b>Vote:</b>	Ayes:	Gary Brown Bob Brinkman David Conrad
	Noes:	None
	Non-Voting:	
	Absent:	Ellen Macaulay Lynn Smith Earl Palmer
	Abstain:	None
	Action:	Motion carried

**Item 3. New Business:**

**3.a. Consider a presentation by Leigh Haney of Round Rock Ghost Tours LLC.**

Ms. Leigh Haney-Choate and Mr. Dayne Choate are the owners of Round Rock Ghost Tours. Ms. Choate's primary business is Haney Marketing on West Main Street. She moved her office here in August 2004 and is involved with the Main Street Artisan Stroll Committee.

Listening to her neighbors telling ghost stories about Round Rock triggered the idea of a tour to learn about Round Rock and all of its history, giving the public a taste of the flavor of Round Rock. The ghosts are a gimmick to generate the public's interest in our town. They will learn how the City began, about people who once lived here and stories surrounding them.

She wants to be accurate and precise in the telling of the stories about Chisholm Trail, Sam Bass, and A.W. Grimes. Ms. Haney-Choate wants to tell the facts with a funny twist in them also. She wants to bring a fun way to learn about our City and help boost tourism, to make downtown a destination to come and see. According to Ms. Haney-Choate the downtown retailers endorse the idea completely. The 90-minute walking tour starts at SaraDora's Coffeehouse, with a 20-30 minute talk around the City. Flyers, brochures, and a website have been created. She said she wants to provide a community service.

Ms. Labrosse told the Commission that she wanted the Commission to meet Ms. Haney-Choate and for them to have the opportunity to ask her questions. Commissioner Brinkman commented that he was glad for the additional attraction for tourism in Round Rock. He offered his services for the accuracy of historical information about the City. Ms. Haney-Choate accepted his offer to help.

Ms. Haney-Choate commented the tour is going to have some conversational comedy. Vice-Chairman Brown mentioned stories he has heard. He agrees it would be nice to have an attraction to show the flavor of the City. Most people don't get to know the City and something like this will get the people to look up and take notice.

Commissioner Brinkman commented that the tour is a great way of keeping the history alive. In about another twenty years, all the people who know the history will be gone. Ms. Haney-Choate says she had a vision for all of the downtown shops and places to see to be full of people. This is a beautiful place, and she wants to spread the news. Commissioner Brinkman relayed a story of the first lawman being killed

here in Round Rock. The first tour will be on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 at Saradora's Coffeehouse at 7:00 p.m. The website is online at [www.RoundRockGhost.com](http://www.RoundRockGhost.com) . Several books for reference were recommended to Ms. Haney-Choate for research. Ms Labrosse offered the books she has in her office for review.

Commissioner Brinkman and Ms. Haney-Choate made an appointment to meet in the Planning Conference Room on Friday, March 17, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. She thanked the Commission for the enthusiasm and support of her idea. Commissioner Brown thanked her for bringing this kind of business to Round Rock stating that the City has needed something like this for a long time.

**3.b. Consider submission of a letter of support on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission for the Hill Country Heritage Trail Region application to the Texas Historical Commission.**

A letter of support for the Hill Country Heritage Trail Region was drafted by Ms. Labrosse and presented to the Commission for signature.

**Motion:** Commission Brinkman moved to support a letter to the Hill Country Heritage Trail Region. Commissioner Conrad seconded the motion.

<b>Vote:</b>	Ayes:	Gary Brown Bob Brinkman David Conrad
	Noes:	None
	Absent:	Ellen Macaulay Lynn Smith Earl Palmer
	Abstain:	None
	Action:	Motion carried
	Non-Voting:	

**4. Old Business**

**4a. Consider a discussion on the historic nature of the area known as the “Round Rock-Llano Stagecoach Road”.**

Ms. Labrosse commented on the subject matter that was tabled at the last meeting. Since Mr. Richard Pavlasik was unable to attend last month’s meeting and Ms. Labrosse has not heard from him since, then the Commission can table it again or motion to withdraw it. If he wishes, we can have him back on the agenda at a later date. Ms. Labrosse presented the Commission with a map showing the area in question.

In Mr. Pavlasik’s original request, he wondered why there was no historic designation for the “Stagecoach Trail”. Ms. Labrosse stated that the City has no official recorded documentation. The area would have to be rezoned with a historic zoning district overlay. Commissioner Brinkman commented that it looks like the path of the railroad back from 1877. Ms. Labrosse wanted Mr. Pavlasik to come to a meeting and have his concerns on record. The issue about road access to his property does not need to be addressed by the Commission, as it has been addressed by Public Works. Commissioner Brinkman stated that the County Railroad Commission could possibly reconstruct the original landmark area. Old railroad maps might have the names of the old trails and combined with the old aerials could piece together the location of the stagecoach trail.

**Motion:** Commissioner Brinkman moves for the “Stagecoach Trail” item to be withdrawn from the agenda. Commissioner Conrad seconded the motion.

<b>Vote:</b>	Ayes:	Gary Brown Bob Brinkman David Conrad
	Noes:	None
	Non-Voting:	
	Absent:	Ellen Macaulay

Lynn Smith

Earl Palmer

Abstain: None

Action: Motion carried

## 5. **Planners Report and Commissioners Comments**

Ms. Labrosse presented several items for discussion by the Commission.

- There was one request made which was too late to put on the agenda and may not need to as it is a maintenance issue. Ms. Betty Porter at 1113 Ledbetter Street has a metal roof that it is leaking. She plans to put a coating on it to repair nail holes and rust that is going to look shiny instead of aged. This is maintenance; however, even though the color would not change, the finish would be different. The Commission did not feel that Ms. Porter would have to come to the Commission for approval.
- The Anti-Slaveholding Union Baptist Cemetery has some changes to it that were not approved through the Commission, including sod, a sundial, a bench, and changes to the fencing. The changes had not come before the Commission. Commissioner Brinkman remembered that it had already gone through the County Commission so he assumed the City knew about the changes. Commissioner Brinkman commented on the history of the parcel and its need to be retold before it is lost. The Commission should get some sort of recording of the history of the burial plot. Commissioner Brinkman stated he will follow up on this.
- The tax abatements schedule for the historic tax exemptions was reviewed. Sites needing inspection and procedures were discussed. Inspection forms will be distributed to Commissioners before or at the April meeting.
- Commissioner Brinkman inquired about the status of the old cabin, which was found on parkland on Emmanuel. Staff will provide him with an update.

**6. Adjournment**

Hearing no further discussion or comments, Vice-Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Armida C. McClure

Planner Technician